

**To:** Wood, MelanieL[Wood.MelanieL@epa.gov]  
**From:** Morlock, Nancy  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 6:10:52 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Tire Crumb Survey Request and Update (Note 8/17 Due Date)



I have not heard of any inquiries from the states on this topic. Feel free to reach out to RCRP – Ben for sure, and maybe Brenda and Janice, too.

FYI, Janice was deployed to Gold King as of about an hour ago, so you may not hear back from her in time for Monday's deadline, but I think Ben is the primary contact for RCRP anyway.

Nancy

**From:** Wood, MelanieL  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 11:32 AM  
**To:** Morlock, Nancy  
**Subject:** FW: Tire Crumb Survey Request and Update (Note 8/17 Due Date)

Hi Nancy –

I haven't seen Patti's notes yet so I am not sure if they included this question. It looks like OCSPP would like an answer by next Monday on their question below. I plan to ask Kim B, Jenn S, Kristen, and Patti if we have had any inquiries, but I think that these may have also come in to your program. Please see below and let me know if you want me to reach out to anyone in RCRP or if you have the info to provide an answer to this response.

Thanks,

Melanie

**From:** Martinez, Hugh  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 9:34 AM  
**To:** Armstead, John A.; Banister, Beverly; Filippelli, John; Flournoy, Karen; Guerriero, Margaret; Kelly, Kate; Kowalski, Ed; LaPosta, Dore; Scott, Jeff; Stenger, Wren; Studlien, Susan; Tennessee, Denise; Weber, Rebecca; Wood, Melaniel  
**Cc:** Studlien, Susan; Morris, Jeff  
**Subject:** Tire Crumb Survey Request and Update (Note 8/17 Due Date)

Dear OCSPP RDDs, please see the request and update below:

**Request for Survey of EPA Regions About Tire Crumb Issues**

A call regarding tire crumb issues was held yesterday among OCSPP, OSWER, ORD and public affairs staff from the Administrator's Office. The call was set as a result of recent media inquiries on this subject at headquarters. At the conclusion of the call, Jim Jones requested that the Lead Region survey all EPA regions on the issue of tire crumb. While there no doubt will be more info to come on this, each region is asked to provide a response to the following as soon as possible:

HAVE ANY STATES IN YOUR REGION REQUESTED EPA GUIDANCE FROM YOU ON TIRE CRUMB ISSUES? If your response is in the affirmative, please identify which state(s) have made such request(s) and what the nature of the requests has been. If any substantive responses have been provided by your region, please summarize those responses.

**Please respond to this survey not later than COB next Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Headquarters would like to get an update on these issues right away.**

**Brief Update/Background re: Tire Crumb** As you may know, EPA has received previous inquiries about the issue of tire crumb (TC), i.e., ground rubber from scrap tires or tire retreading processes often used in synthetic turf fields and playgrounds. Questions have been raised about the issue of possible health effects from using TC in artificial turf and staff from OSWER, OCSPP, OCHP, ORD, the Administrator's office, and Regions 1 and 8 have, to varying degrees, been active in the area. In response to public concerns, EPA has conducted limited scoping studies to test study protocols and monitoring methods for generating data regarding TC use on artificial turf and playgrounds but, overall, studies and investigations by EPA and other entities have been very limited and it has not been possible to reach any comprehensive conclusions without additional data. At this time, EPA, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all recommend that young children wash their hands frequently after playing outside and always before eating.

Based on the limited investigations that have been undertaken regarding TC, most have not found releases of potential concern. Ongoing actions by the CDC and in California and Washington may offer opportunities for more information. At this time, other actions are either underway or anticipated, including these: ORD discussing with CalRecycle a literature review, ORD and OSWER/ORCR working (with input from OPPT and OCHP) with CalRecycle on the scope and design of CalRecycle's study on tire crumb used in artificial turf, and EPA reaching out to CPSC, CDC, NIEHS, and state environmental health directors regarding relevant TC work and info. EPA also is working to update its statement on tire crumb/artificial turf. Finally, OCSPP will facilitate coordination among all the stakeholders and Region 1, as Lead Region for OCSPP, will facilitate regional engagement.

Tire crumb was developed in the mid-1960s and is estimated to have been installed in about 4,500 synthetic turf fields, tracks, and playgrounds across the U.S. Public concerns have been raised in recent years about TC use, for example, by parents worried about children carrying small pieces home on clothing. In New Jersey, high lead levels have been detected on some synthetic turf fields.

For more info, refer to [CDC's Artificial Turf webpage](#), [CPSC's assessment](#) of synthetic turf risks, or the EPA [Tire Crumbs](#) or [Scrap Tires](#) pages.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation in responding to this request for information.

Take care,

-Hugh-

Hugh W. Martinez, Acting Lead Region Coordinator for OCSPP

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[OCSPP Lead Region Community SharePoint Site](#)

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